ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus are provided for a group communication protocol system. According to one embodiment of the invention, a logical token ring is imposed on a local area network (LAN) for each group on the LAN. A token, representing permission to send a message, is circulated among the group members. The token causes the messages of each group to be serialized independently of the other groups. According to another embodiment of the invention, the group is a replication group containing a primary entity and one or more replica entities.